

REMARKS

Claims 21-26 have been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5, 7, 11 and 14 were rejected as anticipated by Butler (U.S. 3,049,433) .

Applicant has amend claim 5 to delete calcium chloride. Butler does not teach or suggest the use of calcium lactate or calcium gluconate. Thus, Butler cannot anticipate claim 5 or any of claims 7, 11 and 14, all of which depend from claim 5.

New claim 21 is drawn to a film-forming composition comprising calcium chloride and a water-soluble cellulose base polymer selected from the group consisting of methylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxylpropyl cellulose (HPC) and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC). However, as explained in the accompanying declaration of under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 of Dr. Yukoh Sakata, an inventor of the present application, the combination of calcium chloride with either hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC) or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC) form a white film. In distinct contrast, the combination of calcium chloride with either hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC) or carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), as taught by Butler, could not form a white film.

While Butler mention hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), Butler does not mention the combination of calcium chloride and hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC). In fact, Butler teaches away from such a combination, stating a column 5, lines 59-60 that "there is more of a color problem with the hydroxylalkyl cellulose ethers (such as, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, or the like) than with others."

In view of the forgoing, claim 21 and the claims dependent thereon cannot be seen as anticipated by or obvious in view of Butler.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15-18 were rejected as obvious in view of Butler taken with Iwata et al. (WO 01/40186).

Butler is discussed above. Iwata et al. adds nothing of significance and does not suggest the combination of calcium salts and cellulose base polymers of the present claims.

Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be reconsiders and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee for the Three-Month Extension is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 19331-0002US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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